

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of June 23, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying terminal disclaimer and Amendment of the claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

pages 1 and 5 of the specification is amended to update US Application numbers and granted Patent numbers. Additionally, page 16 is amended to correct a typographical error in the brief description of drawings;

independent claim 1 is amended to recite that the printing system includes a plurality of sequentially positioned printheads for printing respective materials and curing mechanisms for performing different curing methods on respective ones of the printed materials, and that the printheads which print materials being cured by the same curing method are grouped with the associated curing mechanism. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 16, line 23-page 17, line 4 and page 23, line 17-page 24, line 8 and in Fig. 4 of the present application; and

dependent claims 2-18 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendments do not add any new matter to the present application.

Regarding Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejection

With respect to the Examiner's non-statutory double patenting rejection of pending claim 13 over claim 23 of US Patent No. 6,997,698, the Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c); the present application and US Patent No. 6,997,698 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

Regarding Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of pending claim 13 under the conditions stated in the Office Action.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-discussed amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-12 and 18 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by newly cited Cima et al. (US 5,869,170), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, the printheads and curing mechanisms are sequentially positioned along a path of a moving substrate in such a manner that the printheads which print materials to be cured by the same method are grouped together with the curing mechanism for performing that method. In this way, only a single curing mechanism is required for each curing method (see page 16, line 23-page 17, line 4, page 23, line 17-page 24, line 8 and Fig. 4 of the present application).

On the other hand, Cima merely discloses providing powder distribution and binder deposition heads for printing polymers/bioactive agents and associated solvents/adhesives which may be then heated or cured to produce drugs (see col. 3, line 53-col. 4, line 16 and col. 8, lines 57-65 of Cima). Cima does not disclose, or suggest, sequentially positioning the heads and curing mechanisms, nor grouping the heads for printing material to be cured using the same method together with the curing mechanism for that method, as is required by amended independent claim 1.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-18 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed, or suggested, by Cima.

Regarding 35 USC 102(e) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-discussed amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-12 and 18 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by previously cited Gothait, for at least the following reasons.

In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 8, Gothait discloses a printing head 132 for printing materials and curing units 134 and 136 for curing the materials using different UV wavelengths (see also col. 9, lines 26-33 of Gothait). However, as can be clearly seen from Fig. 8, Gothait does not disclose, or suggest, sequentially positioning a plurality of printing heads and the curing units, nor grouping the printing heads for printing material to be cured

using the same method together with the curing unit for that method, as is required by amended independent claim 1.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-18 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed, or suggested, by Gothait.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claims 14-17 is not taught or suggested by Gothait in view of previously cited O'Connor, because O'Connor merely discloses a stereolithography process for developing a prototype part having non-photopolymer material inserts, and therefore fails to make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in Gothait.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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